

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 SCA-01 SCS-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PA-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, CASC (SMUTS, BARBARA), (SMITH, KENNETH STEVEN),
(HUNTER, CARRIE JANE)

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF KIDNAPPED AMERICAN: PRESS GUIDANCE

FOLLOWING GUIDANCE HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN AND WILL BE USED ON IF-ASKED BASIS. POSTS SHOULD
DRAW FROM IT AS NECESSARY.

Q. WHEN WAS THE REMAINING STUDENT, KENNETH STEVEN SMITH,
RELEASED?

A. HE WAS RETURNED TO KIGOMA (A TOWN ON THE TANZANIAN SIDE
OF LAKE TANZANYIKA) EARLY IN THE MORNING OF JULY 26.

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Q. WHERE IS HE NOW?

A. HE AND HIS FATHER, WHO HAD BEEN IN KIGOMA AWAITING
HIS RELEASE, WERE FLOWN TO DAR ES SALAAM. THEY ARRIVED

THERE LATER THE SAME DAY (JULY 26).

Q. WHAT KIND OF SHAPE IS HE IN?

A. HE IS APPARENTLY IN GOOD PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH AND STATES THAT HE WAS WELL-TREATED.

Q. WHAT AGREEMENT WAS MADE TO OBTAIN HIS RELEASE?

A. I CANNOT DISCUSS ACTIONS TAKEN TO SECURE HIS RELEASE.

Q. WAS RANSOM PAID?

A. I WILL NOT DISCUSS THE DETAILS SURROUNDING THE RELEASE OF SMITH AND THE OTHER STUDENTS. I WILL ONLY SAY THAT IT IS THE POLICY OF THE USG NOT TO SUBMIT TO RANSOM DEMANDS.

Q. HOW WAS HE BROUGHT ACROSS THE LAKE?

A. HE WAS RETURNED IN A MOTOR CRAFT WHICH WAS USED IN THE ORIGINAL CAPTURE AT GOMBE RESEARCH CENTER THE NIGHT OF MAY 19/20.

Q. WHAT ARE HIS FUTURE PLANS?

A. I BELIEVE HE WILL BE IN DAR ES SALAAM FOR A FEW DAYS, THEN RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES WITH HIS FATHER.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE OTHER STUDENTS?

A. THE STUDENT WHO WAS RELEASED MAY 25, BARBARA SMUTS, IS BACK IN THE UNITED STATES. OF THE TWO WHO WERE RELEASED JUNE 28 (CARRIE JANE HUNTER - AMERICAN, AND EMILIE BERGMANN - DUTCH) I BELIEVE MS. HUNTER AND HER FATHER WILL BE RETURNING TO THE US AND I DON'T KNOW MS. BERGMANN'S PLANS. INGERSOLL

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